



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Devlin et al.)
Filed: February 5, 2004)
Serial No.: 10/773,079) Group Art Unit: 1641
Title: Method for Automatically Storing and)
Reprocessing Patent Specimens in an)
Automatic Clinical Analyzer) Examiner: Unknown
Atty Docket No.: DCS-9119B)

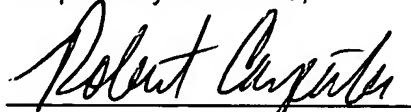
TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find for the above-referenced application, an Information Disclosure Statement and Certification Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 (three copies for accounting purposes); Form PTO-1449 on which the citations are listed; copies of PTO-1449 and PTO-892 previously filed; and a Return Post Card.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert N. Carpenter
Registration No. 40,409
Attorney for Applicants

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on this 24 day of May, 2004.



Maria G. Salgado



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Automatic Clinical Analyzer) Examiner: Unknown
Atty Docket No.: DCS-9119B)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 AND 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicants wish to bring the following information to the attention of the Examiner in connection with the subject application. Attached is a copy of Form PTO-1449, on which the citations are listed.

Applicants believe that no fee is due, in as much as there has been no office action. However, if any fee is due, please charge the fee or any additional amount required for filing this document to our Deposit Account No. 04-0010. This authorization is provided in triplicate for accounting purposes.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant wishes to bring the following information to the attention of the Examiner in connection with the subject application. Form PTO-1449 is attached, on which the citations are listed. The references were cited either by the

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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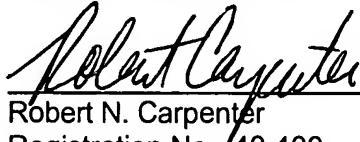

Maria G. Salgado

Applicant or by the Examiner in one of the parent applications of this application and thus copies of the references are not being resubmitted with this statement. Copies of the prior PTO-1449 and PTO-892 forms are enclosed herein. See 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d). The parent applications are S.N. 09/725,621, filed November 30, 2000 and S.N. 09/827,045, filed April 5, 2001, now abandoned in favor of S.N. 10/773,079 filed on February 5, 2004.

This Disclosure Statement is not intended to substitute for the Examiner's own search. It is believed, however, that this Disclosure Statement will assist the Examiner in the search. The Examiner is expressly requested to review each item cited herein and to make all of the cited items of record in this case as having been considered. The completed Form PTO-1449 is attached for this purpose.

Citation of the items herein is not to be construed as an admission that the information is within the scope and content of the prior art relevant to the present invention, that the information is prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the present patent application, that the information is otherwise prior art with respect to the present invention, or that the information cited is material to the claims. In addition, applicants reserve the right to later set forth how the present invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other prior art, including the information cited herein.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert N. Carpenter
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FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
(Rev. 2.32) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO. SERIAL NO.
DCS-9119B 10/773,079

APPLICANT

Devlin et al.

FILING DATE

February 5, 2004

GROUP

1641

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
A01	*5,981,296	11/9/1999	Stout			
A02	*5,827,744	10/27/1998	Fose et al.			
A03	*5,813,759	9/29/1998	Gebrian			
A04	*5,776,784	7/7/1998	Kegelman et al.			
A05	*5,681,695	10/28/1997	Decker et al.			
A06	*5,635,364	6/3/1997	Clark et al.			
A07	*5,350,564	09/1994	Mazza et al.			
A08	*4,274,744	06/1981	Chae et al.			
A09	*4,362,698	12/1982	Boosalis et al.			
A10	*5,110,743	05/1992	Windisch et al.			
A11	*4,276,258	06/1981	Ginsberg et al.			
A12	*4,311,484	01/1982	Fosslien, Egil			
A13	*4,424,191	01/1984	Jakubowicz, Raymond F.			
A14	*4,595,562	06/17/1986	Liston et al.			
A15	*4,670,219	06/1987	Nelson et al.			
A16	*4,708,886	11/1987	Nelson, Larry A.			
A17	*4,678,752	07/1987	Thorne et al.			
A18	*4,731,225	03/15/1988	Wakatake, Koichi			
A19	*5,614,415	03/25/1997	Markin, Rodney S.			
A20	*6,151,535	11/21/2000	Ehlers			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
B01	*EP 0 856 736	08/05/1998	Europe			
B02	*EP 0 517 477	12/09/1992	Europe			
B03	*EP 0 977 039	02/02/2000	Europe			
B04	*EP 0 703 456	03/27/1996	Europe			

* References were previously cited by the Applicant or by the Examiner and thus copies of these references are not being resubmitted with this statement. Copies of the prior PTO-1449 and -892 forms are enclosed herein. See 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d).

Examiner	Date Considered
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])



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Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
IN AN APPLICATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)
DCS-9119

Application Number
09/725,621

Applicant

DEVLIN ET AL

Filing Date

11/30/00

Group Art Unit

3736

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
O I P E	5,981,296	11/9/99	Stout	436	501	
FEB 2 0 2001	5,827,744	10/27/98	Fose et al	436	49	
	5,813,759	9/29/98	Gebrian	366	208	
	5,776,784	7/7/98	Kegelman et al	436	526	
	5,681,695	10/28/97	Decker et al	435	5	
	5,635,364	6/3/97	Clark et al	435	7.92	

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

Melvin Gab

DATE CONSIDERED

09/20/03

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Notice of References Cited

		Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination	
		09/725,621	DEVLIN ET AL.	
		Examiner	Art Unit	Page 1 of 1
		Yelena G. Gakh, Ph.D.	1743	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-5,350,564	09-1994	Mazza et al.	422/63
	B	US-4,274,744	06-1981	Chae et al.	356/414
	C	US-4,362,698	12-1982	Boosalis et al.	422/102
	D	US-5,110,743	05-1992	Windisch et al.	436/48
	E	US-4,276,258	06-1981	Ginsberg et al.	422/64
	F	US-4,311,484	01-1982	Fosslien, Egil	73/864.21
	G	US-4,424,191	01-1984	Jakubowicz, Raymond F.	422/65
	H	US-4,595,562	06-1986	Liston et al.	422/65
	I	US-4,670,219	06-1987	Nelson et al.	422/63
	J	US-4,708,886	11-1987	Nelson, Larry A.	422/72
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

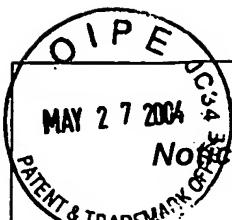
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.


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Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 09/827,045	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination DEVLIN ET AL.
	Examiner Yelena G. Gakh, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1743

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
A	US-5,350,564	09-1994	Mazza et al.	422/63
B	US-4,274,744	06-1981	Chae et al.	356/414
C	US-4,362,698	12-1982	Boosalis et al.	422/102
D	US-5,110,743	05-1992	Windisch et al.	436/48
E	US-4,678,752	07-1987	Thorne et al.	435/287.3
F	US-			
G	US-			
H	US-			
I	US-			
J	US-			
K	US-			
L	US-			
M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
N					
O					
P					
Q					
R					
S					
T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

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	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

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Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Rev. 2.32) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. DCS-9119 CIP	SERIAL NO. 09/827,045
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT Devlin, et al.	
		FILING DATE April 5, 2001	GROUP Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
Y6	A01	US 4,595,562	17 Jun 1986	Liston, et al.			
	A02	US 4,731,225	15 Mar 1988	Wakatake, Koichi			
↓	A03	US 5,614,415	25 Mar 1997	Markin, Rodney S.			
	A04						
	A05						
	A06						
	A07						
	A08						
	A09						
	A10						
	A11						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO
Y6	B01 EP 0 856 736	5 Aug 1998	Europe				
	B02 EP 0 517 477	9 Dec 1992	Europe				
	B03 EP 0 977 039	2 Feb 2000	Europe				
W	B04 EP 0 703 456	27 Mar 1996	Europe				
	B05						

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

C01		RECEIVED
C02		OCT 3 0 2002
C03		OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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Examiner

Melvin Lake

Date Considered

09/30/03

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(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])



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Sheet 1 of 1